

THE FUTILITY OF PREPAREDNESS AS  
THE CARTOONISTS SEE IT.

Charles B. Jefferson.



## APPENDIX

### Declarations of Sig. Giolitti to the Italian Parliament <sup>1</sup>

December 5, 1914.

"... As I consider it necessary that the good faith of Italy in the observance of international agreements be placed above all debate, I feel obliged to recall a precedent which proves that the interpretation given by our Government to our treaties, at the beginning of the conflict, was correct and that it has been admitted as sound by our allies themselves.

"During the War of the Balkans, on August 9, 1913, precisely, being absent from Rome, I received from my colleague, the Marquis of San Giuliano, the following telegram:

"Austria has communicated to us, as also to Germany, its intention to act against Serbia, and defines this action as a defensive one, hoping to apply to the Triple-Alliance the *casus fœderis* which I believe to be inapplicable. I am trying to devise with Germany some efforts for the purpose of preventing this action of Austria; but it might be necessary to state clearly that we do not consider this eventual action as defensive and that, consequently, we do not believe that the *casus fœderis* exists. I beg you to telegraph to me at Rome whether you approve.'

"I answered thus:

"If Austria acts against Serbia, it is obvious that the *casus fœderis* does not exist. It is an action undertaken by Austria on its own account; for there is no question of defense, since nobody dreams of attacking her. It is necessary that this be declared to Austria in the most positive form, and it is to be hoped that the action of Germany will dissuade Austria from this perilous adventure.'

"This was done, and the interpretation given by us had the approval of our allies, with whom our friendly intercourse was not in the least disturbed. The declaration of neutrality made at the beginning of the present conflict is therefore in conformity with the spirit and with the letter of the treaties. I wanted to recall this fact because I think it well that all Europe should know that Italy has acted in complete good faith."

<sup>1</sup> It seems that a similar step was taken by Austria toward Rumania in May, 1913. M. Take Ionesco has formally declared that there remains some trace of it in a telegram addressed by Count Berchtold to the Prince of Fürstenberg and communicated by him to the head of the Rumanian Government. The official denials to which this revelation has given rise on the part of Austria do not allow us to give it a place in this publication under the form of an official document.

# THE FUTILITY OF "PREPAREDNESS"

WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY CHARLES E. JEFFERSON

**M**ILITARISM is so tragic in many of its aspects that we are in danger of forgetting it has a ludicrous side. There are so many things to weep over, we have no inclination to laugh. But militarists are in reality a mirth provoking set. Their ideas are so queer, and their antics are so comic, that it would seem the gods themselves must sometimes smile at them.

All militarists have timorous hearts. They are constitutionally fearsome. They see goblins and ghosts in all directions. Detecting perils is their forte. They sometimes work themselves into a state of terror. They become mentally diseased. To men in delirium tremens, the universe sometimes converts itself into a nest of serpents. To militarists of the thirty-second degree, all nations except their own are serpents. European nations for instance are to our American militarists ready to strike their fangs into us. Oriental nations are lying like copperheads in the grass eager to spring out upon us. The possibilities of national disaster and overthrow multiply when brooded over by an excited brain, and all sorts of wild and preposterous schemes are hatched for our salvation. Comparing the number of our torpedoes with the number of miles in our coast line is a pastime which throws some men into hysterics. If members of Congress, they cry out in a loud voice which goes reverberating across the land. Newspaper editors, intimidated by the congressional thunder, write feverish editorials on the duty of being prepared for every possible contingency. Whereupon sundry patriots never before heard from write letters to the papers pleading with congress to save us from national annihilation. When the fever is at its climax, the army and naval budgets are voted. These budgets flourish best under a sky black with thunder clouds.

That militarism is a form of lunacy is demonstrated by what we have seen recently in our own country. The European war has proved that military preparedness is a menace to the peace of the world, and that the whole philosophy of armed peace is false, and yet right in the midst of the war all our militarists, before waiting to find out how the war will end, or what sort of military equipment we might need on the return of peace, set up a howl for more guns and ships. At the very time when it was not possible for anybody to attack



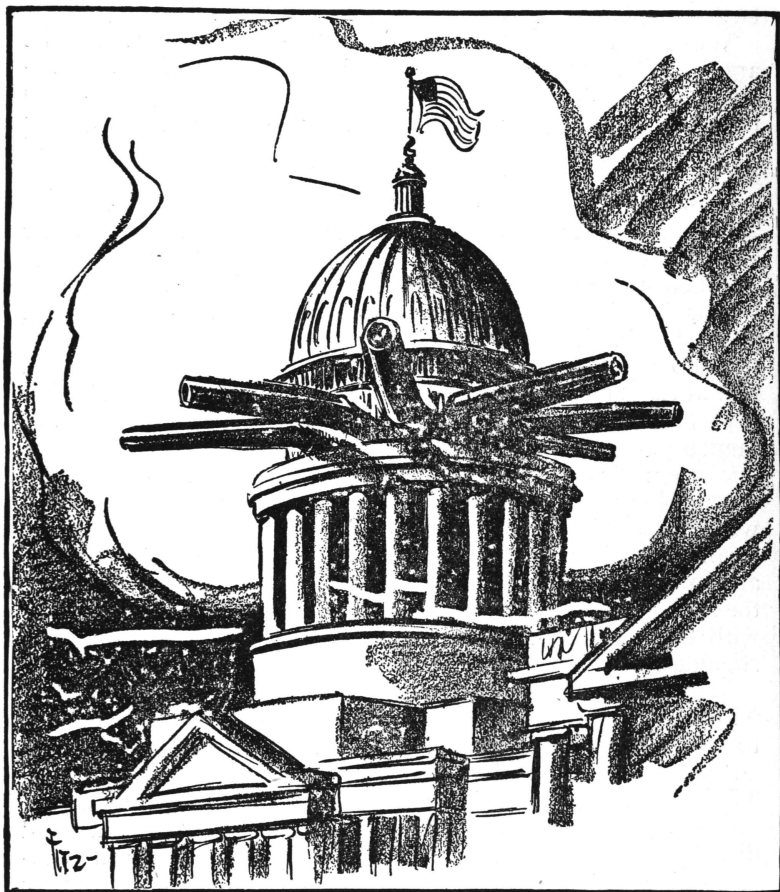
us, and when one would have supposed that every American capable of thought would have set himself to inquiring after a new way of conserving the peace of the world, our militarists could think of absolutely nothing but more explosives and larger guns.

What shall we do? Let us laugh. Such men cannot be argued with. They must be ridiculed. There are kinds of demons which can be cast out by prayer; others succumb only to laughter. Humbugs which defy all the batteries of the reason sometimes fall when pierced with smiles. Chivalry could not be reasoned away. It was not until Cervantes laughed that it vanished. Militarism is an antiquated chivalry that struts and brags and acts the fool in the 20th century. It must be bowed out with peals of laughter.

• When a militarist molly-coddle tells us in a whisper that he has seen with his own eyes plans for invading the country, let us laugh. When the Navy League sends out sixty-seven reasons for a strong navy for defense, let us laugh again, first at the number, and then again at the word "defense." Men who prattle about preparing for war in time of peace are human parrots. Let us stroke them with a smile. When some one cries: "Look at Belgium! Look at China!" let us stand up and shout. The man who says that is a joke! O for a playwright who will give us a series of comedies and farces setting forth militarism as it is. The patriotism of the war traders and the wisdom of the military and naval experts who write for the Sunday papers are too funny to be lost. Let us make merry with these giants who, like Atlas, carry the world on their shoulders.

We need more pictures. Folly cannot be adequately dealt with in words. It must be painted. Foolery is never seen to best advantage except in pictures. It is in them that the essence of the foolishness strikes the mind most palpably. The shivering patriots in congress who shout till red in the face for bigger armaments must have their portraits drawn and distributed. We must see them, for when we see them, we cannot fail to laugh at them. The citizens who rush frantically to join the latest organization formed for the strengthening of national defense, ought to be immortalized in a series of cartoons. The folly and wickedness of war, the folly of armed peace, and the wickedness of it, can best be brought home to multitudes of men by the artist who knows how to put facts and ideas into pictures.

CHARLES E. JEFFERSON.



NOT YET!!

Fitz in the St. Louis Post Despatch



THE PAUL REVERE FAMILY  
Bowman in the Boston Post



THROWING A SCARE INTO HIM  
Kirby in the New York World



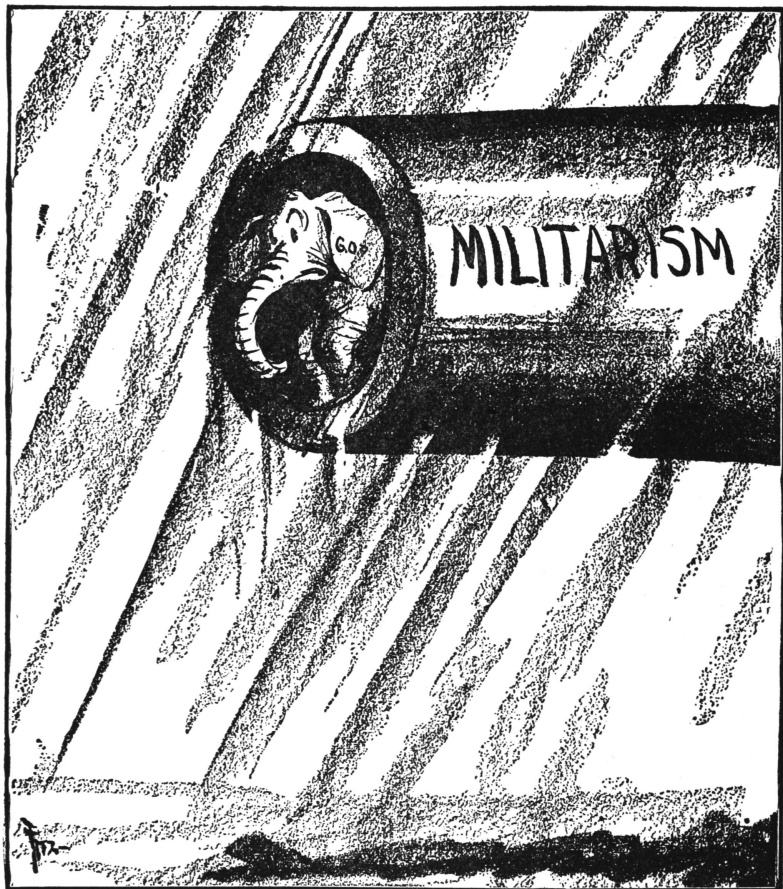
"ALL DRESSED UP AND NO PLACE TO GO"  
Chicago Herald



Williams in the Indianapolis News



SOMETHING NEW IN A JACK-IN-THE-BOX  
Sumner in the Detroit Tribune



ANY OLD PORT IN A STORM  
Fitz in the St. Louis Post Despatch





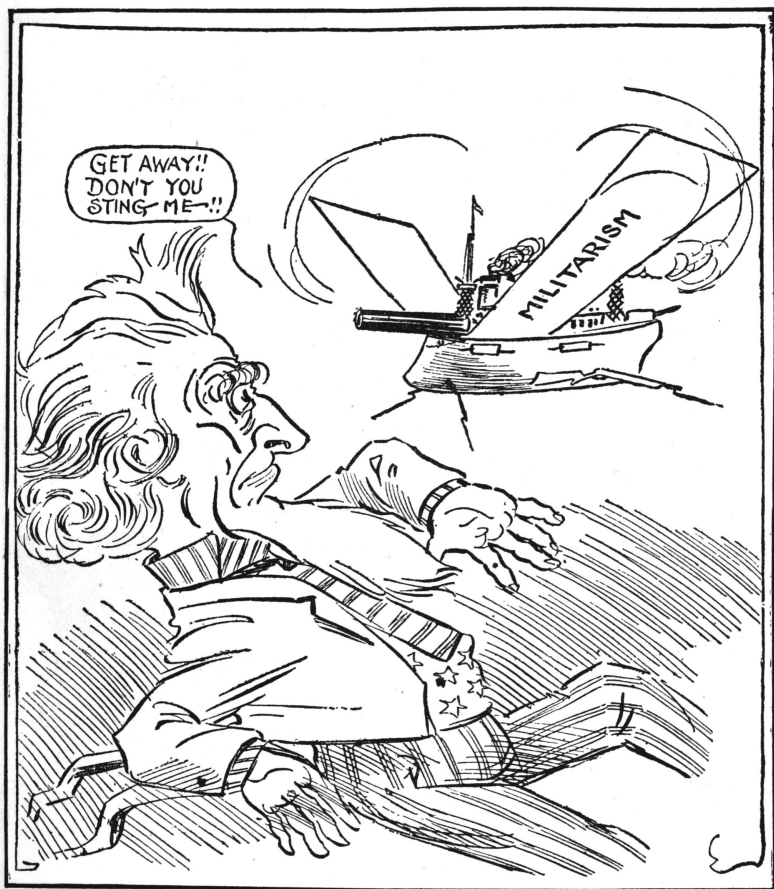
ANY GENTLEMAN WHO TAKES THIS FOR A FOOTBALL IS LIABLE TO STUB  
HIS TOE

Rogers in the New York Herald

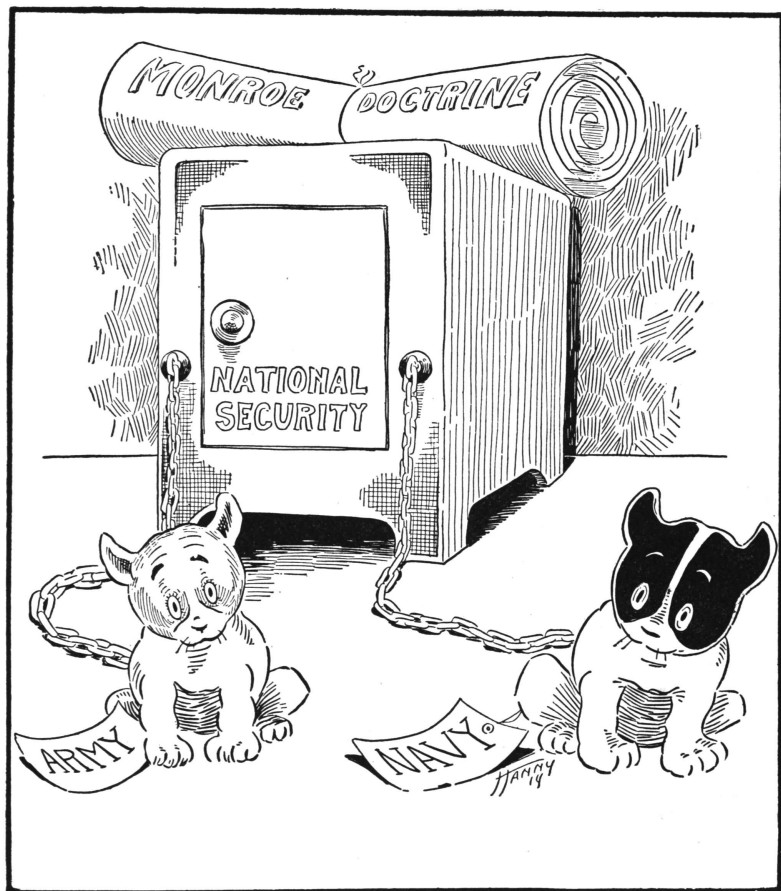


"HE'S A DEVIL IN HIS OWN HOME TOWN"

Harding in the Brooklyn Eagle



DODGE THE BUG, UNCLE  
Birmingham Age-Herald

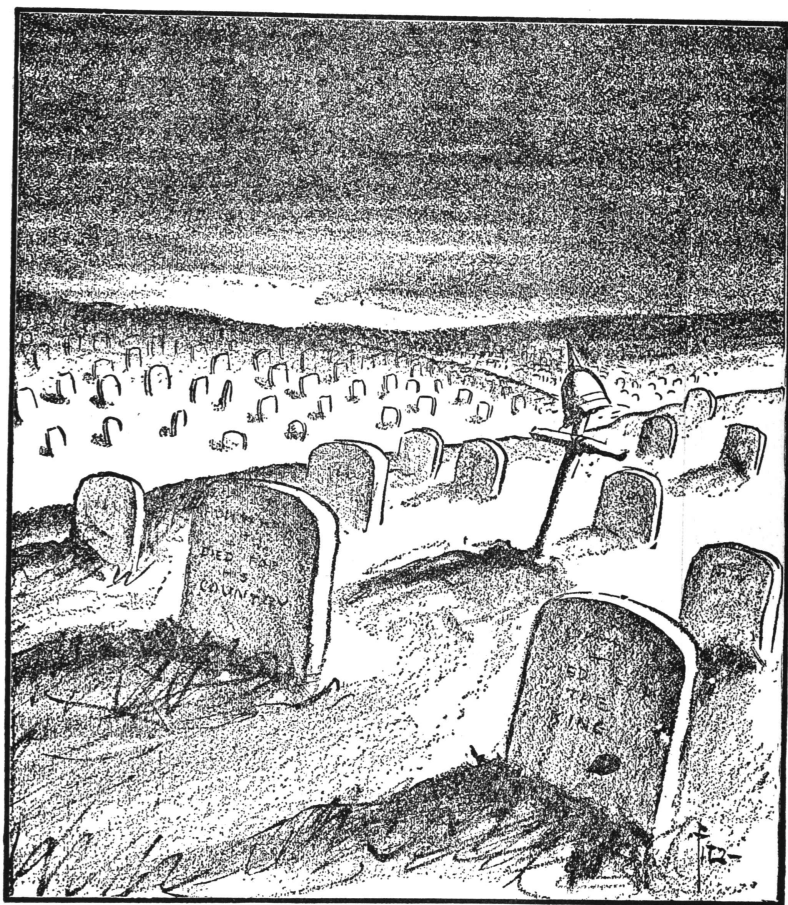


OUR DOGS OF WAR, ACCORDING TO REP. GARDNER  
Hanny in the St. Joseph, Mo., News-Press



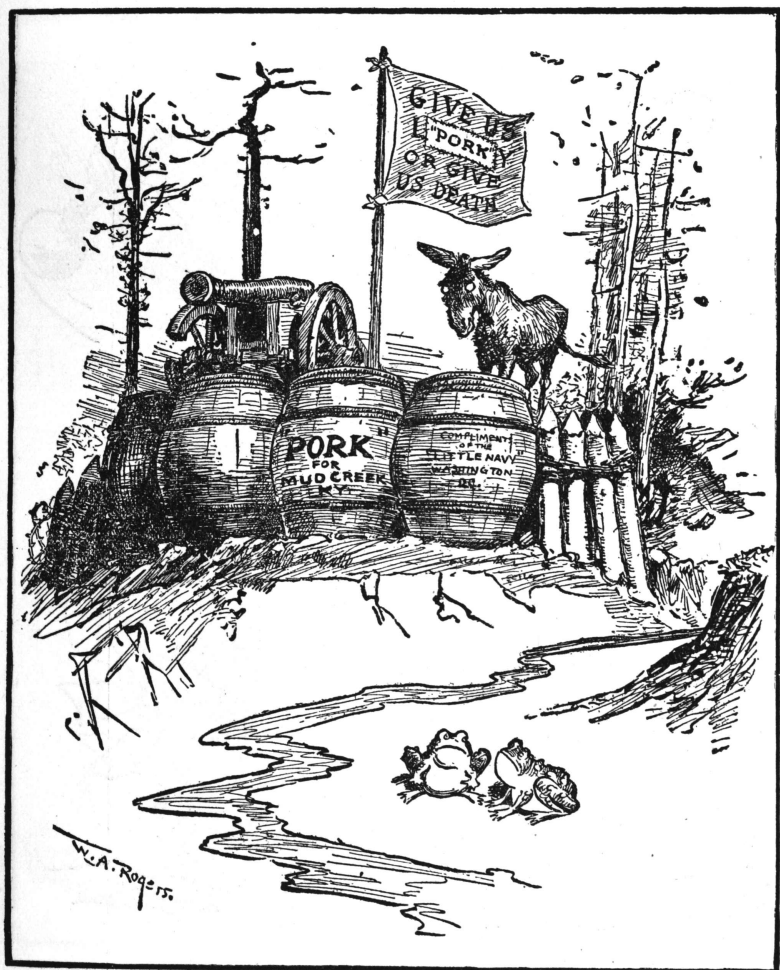
UNCLE SAM: "I DON'T THINK I LIKE THESE CLOTHES, MR. BARTHOLDT"

Kirby in the New York World

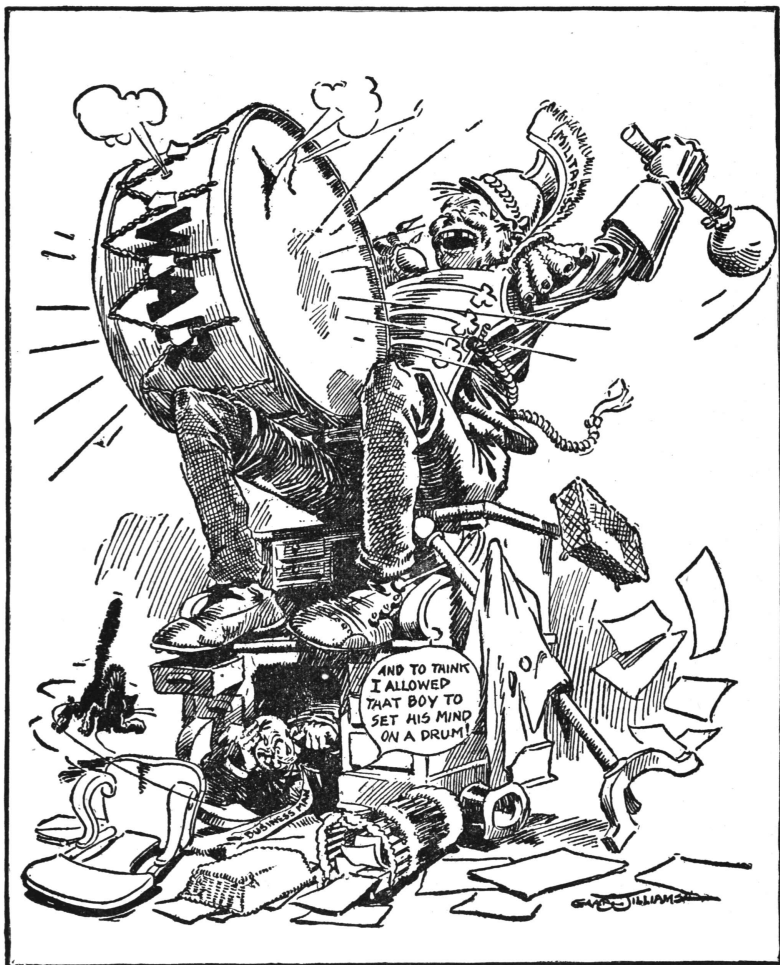


THE PEACE OF MILITARISM

Fitz in the St. Louis Post Despatch



OUR NATIONAL DEFENSES  
Rogers in the New York Herald



Williams in the Indianapolis News





This—Plus—This



Plus This—Plus—This



Equals This

A SIMPLE SUM IN ARITHMETIC

McCutcheon in the Chicago Tribune

# You May Say What You Like—

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OUR CONGRESSMEN MAY NOT HELP TEMPERANCE—



—AND THEY MAY NOT HELP WOMAN SUFFRAGE—

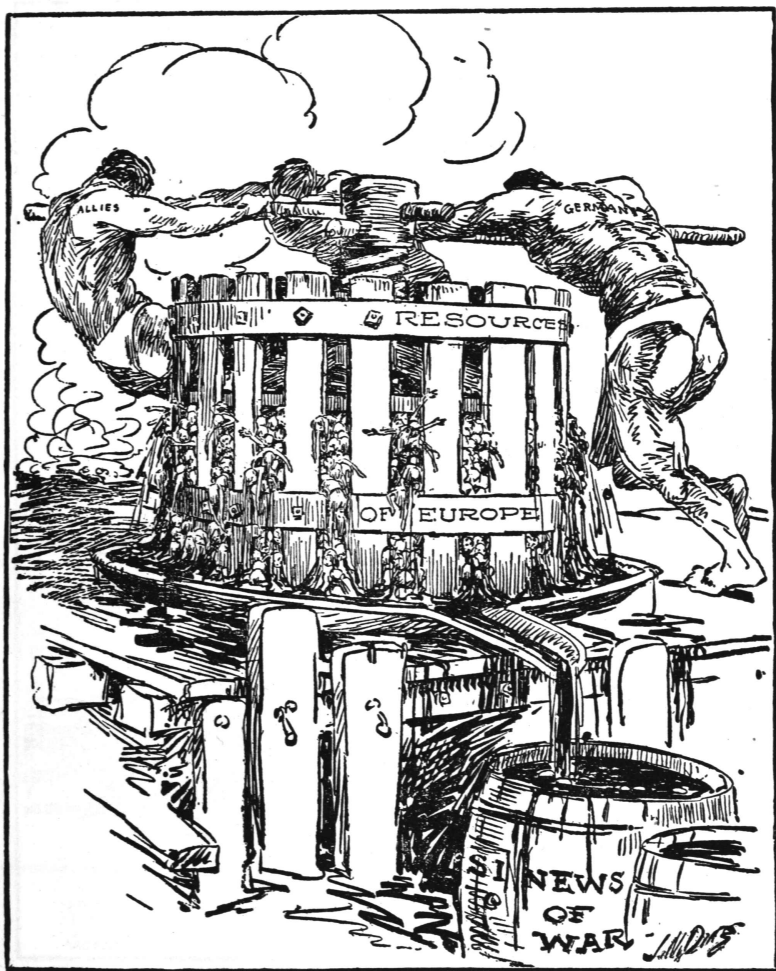


—AND THEY MAY NOT HELP TO STOP CHILD LABOR—



—BUT THEY ARE GREAT ON ENCOURAGING NEW AND DESTRUCTIVE IMPLEMENTS OF WAR.

Opfer in the Boston American



THE 1914 VINTAGE  
Ding in the Des Moines Register and Leader



THE SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST  
Cæsar in the New York Sun

# As Congressman Gardner Sees Himself.



Tom Bee in the Baltimore Sun

